



Press Release

National
Agricultural
Statistics
Service

In Cooperation with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

Louisiana Field Office · 5825 Florida Blvd · Baton Rouge, LA 70806 · (225) 922-1362 · www.nass.usda.gov/la

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For Information Contact:

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Terry Mathews
800.256.4485

Louisiana Farmers Expected to Plant One Million Acres to Soybeans

“This is the first time in four years that Louisiana’s soybean acreage has hit the one million mark,” according to Nathan Crisp, Director of the National Agricultural Statistics Service’s Louisiana Field Office. “Soybean prices are excellent, and that’s certainly a major factor behind the big jump in acreage,” Crisp continued. “On the down side, this will be the lowest cotton planted acreage on record,” he added.

Soybean planted acreage is expected to total 1,000,000 acres, 395,000 acres more than last year and 90,000 acres above March intentions.

Cotton planted acreage is expected to total 290,000 acres, down 45,000 acres from last year but up 10,000 acres from March intentions. If realized, this will be the lowest planted acreage on record.

Rice planted acreage is estimated at 410,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from 2007 and up 70,000 acres from March intentions. Long grain varieties are expected to account for 395,000 acres and medium grain for the remaining 15,000 acres.

Corn planted acreage is estimated at 510,000 acres, down 230,000 acres from a year ago and down 50,000 from March intentions.

Grain sorghum planted acreage is estimated at 100,000 acres, down 150,000 acres from 2007 and down 50,000 acres from March intentions.

Sugarcane acreage for harvest is estimated at 405,000 acres, down 15,000 acres from last year. This is the lowest harvested acres for sugar and seed since 1996 when the state harvested only 370,000 acres.

Sweet potato planted acreage in the state, at 16,000 acres, is the same as a year ago.

An estimated 400,000 acres were planted to **winter wheat** for the 2008 crop, up 165,000 acres from the 2007 crop year. Of the total, an estimated 385,000 acres were harvested for grain.

All **hay** acreage intended for harvest is estimated at 440,000 acres, up 40,000 acres from 2007.

U.S. Soybean planted area is estimated at 74.5 million acres, up 17 percent from 2007. Planted area increased from last year in all states, and is the third largest U.S. planted acreage on record.

The **U.S.** planted area for **all cotton** in 2008 is estimated at 9.3 million acres, 15 percent below last year and the lowest since 1983. **Upland cotton** acreage totaled 9.0 million acres, down 14 percent from 2007.

Rice planted area for the **U.S.** is expected to total 2.9 million acres, 5 percent above last year’s planted acreage.

The **U.S. Corn** planted acreage for all purposes is estimated at 87.3 million acres, down 7 percent from 2007 but up 2 percent from March intentions.

U.S. Grain sorghum planted area in 2008 is estimated at 7.3 million acres, down 6 percent from 2007 and down 2 percent from March intentions.

U.S. Sugarcane area for harvest as sugar and seed during the 2008 crop year is estimated at 871,500 acres, down 1 percent from 2007.

Sweet potato acreage for the **U.S.** is estimated at 104,100 acres for the 2008 season, up 3 percent from 2007.

The U.S. all wheat planted area is estimated at 63.5 million acres, up 5 percent from 2007. Harvested area is expected to total 56.6 million acres, up 11 percent from last year. The 2008 **winter wheat** planted area, at 46.6 million acres, is 4 percent above last year.

U.S. producers expect to harvest 60.4 million acres of **all hay** in 2008, down 2 percent from last year.